



Challenge and Opportunity Roadless Area Conservation in Idaho

“The Idaho Roadless Rule”

FPR NP-CLW:

Rule Overview, Cultural Resources & Minerals

Presented to

Revision Collaborative Session: Nov 10, 2012

Presented by

Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission

Jim Caswell, Chair



Outline of the Presentation

- Objective
- Overview of the Idaho Rule
- The concept of the Rule
- The components of the Rule specific to Cultural Resources (SAHTs) and Mineral Resources
- The role of the Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission in NP-CLW NFs Forest Plan Revision
- Expectations for success



Objectives

- Broaden the understanding of the NP-CLW Revision Collaborative's understanding of the Idaho Roadless Rule.
- Expand the understanding of the management flexibility provided by the Idaho Roadless Rule, including its requirements, obligations, and consultation requirements specific to SAHTs (Cultural Resources) and Minerals Resources
- Discuss the role and obligations of the Governor's Roadless Rule Implementation Commission.

The Purpose

- Provide State-specific direction, integrating local management concerns with national objectives
 - These purposes, specific to SAHTs and Minerals:
 - Providing limited exceptions for some communities highly dependent on the natural resources on NFS lands (phosphate)
 - Conserving the undeveloped character of the vast majority of IRAs.
- Petition was submitted by the Governor of Idaho, accepted by Secretary of Agriculture, and was recommended by the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee (RACNAC)



Idaho Roadless Rule

- Designates a system of lands called “Idaho Roadless Areas”
- Establishes five management themes for individual roadless areas
- Provides prohibitions and limited permissions for
 - Road construction and reconstruction (for later discussion)
 - Timber cutting, sale or removal (for later discussion)
 - **Discretionary mineral activities** (for today's discussion)
- Provides for corrections and modifications

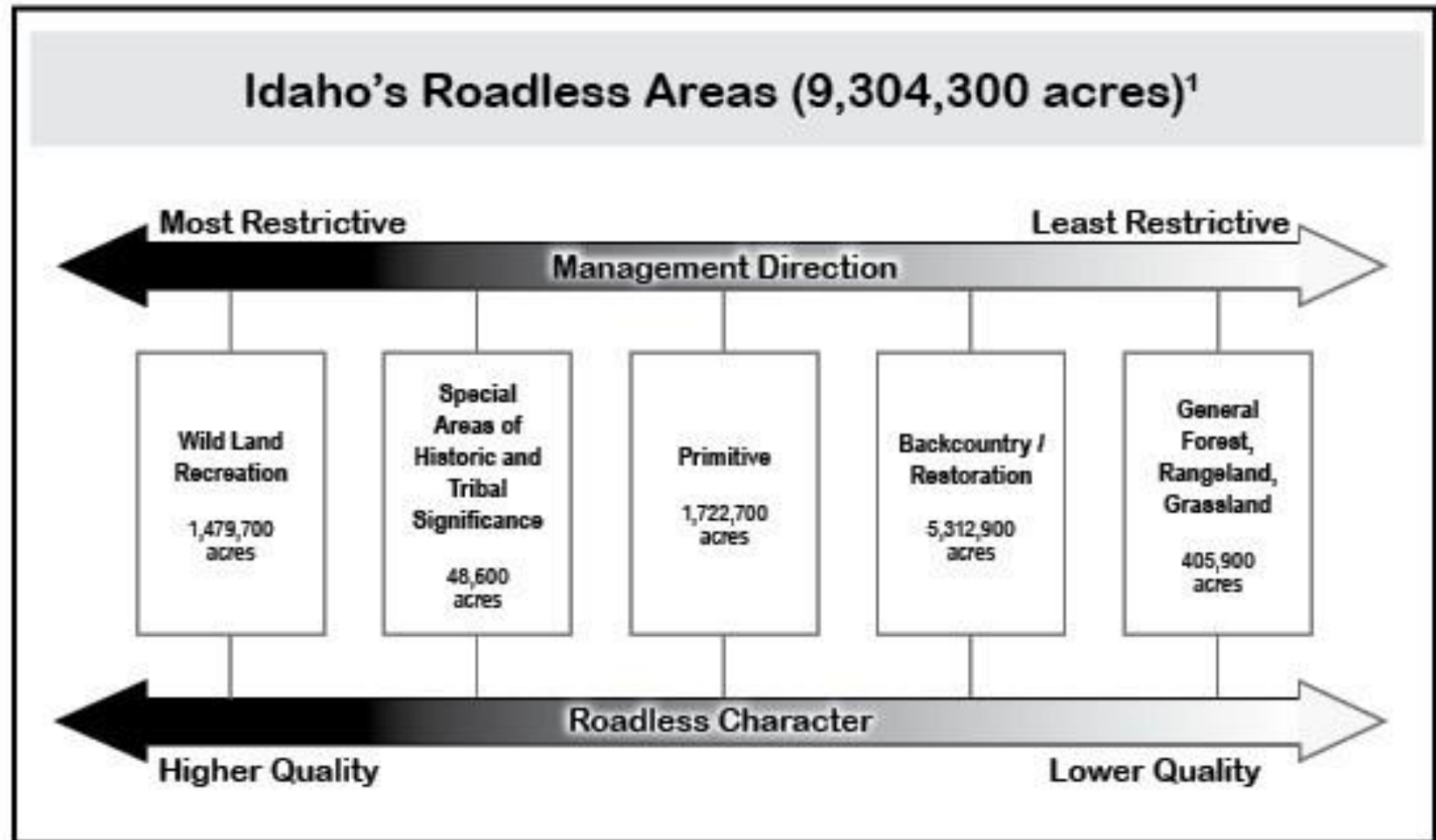


The Final Rule does not apply to:

- Status of existing roads or trails
- Motorized equipment and mechanical transport
- Appropriate management response to fires
- **Activities associated with the 1872 mining law**
- **Existing rights including responsibilities to Tribes**

Any activities permitted still require environmental review – and consistency with Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

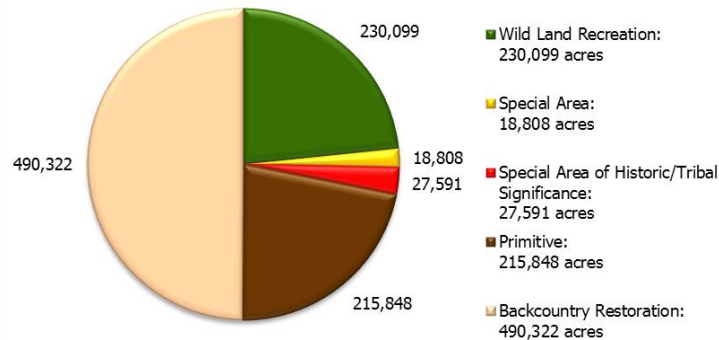
Idaho Roadless Area Continuum



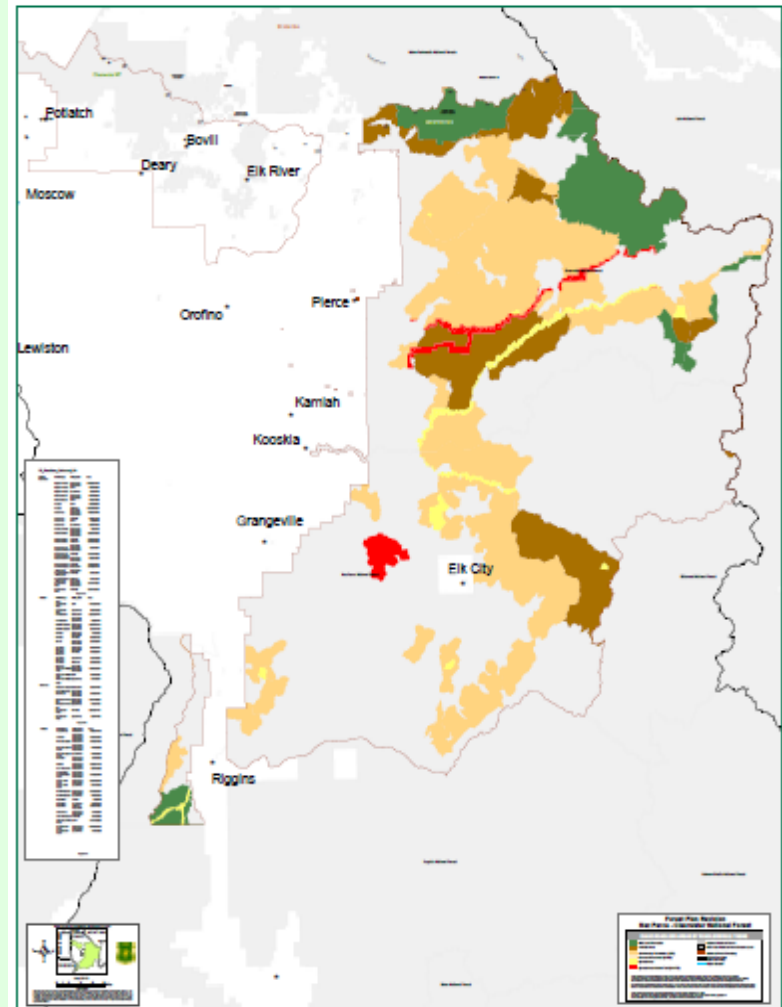
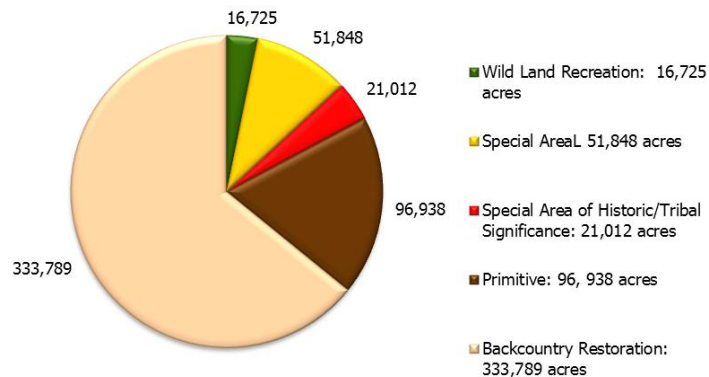
¹ 334,500 acres of forest plan special areas will be managed in accordance with applicable current and future forest plans

Idaho Roadless Areas Forest Theme Overview

Clearwater NF: IRR Theme Acres
Total IRR Acres: 982,669

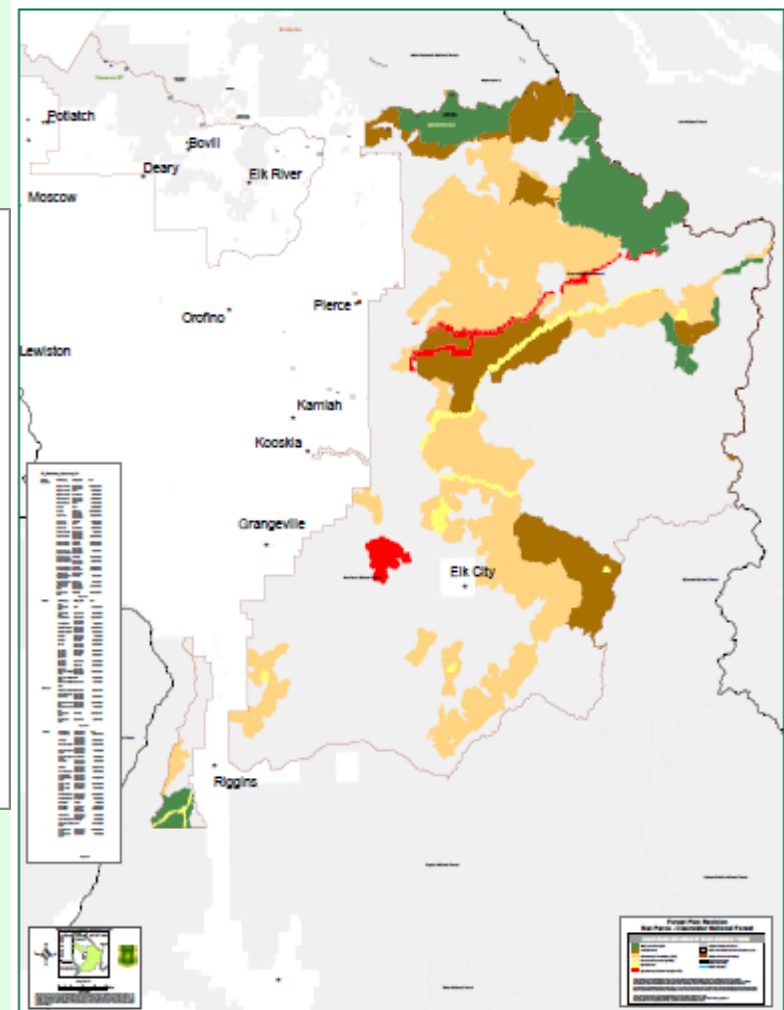
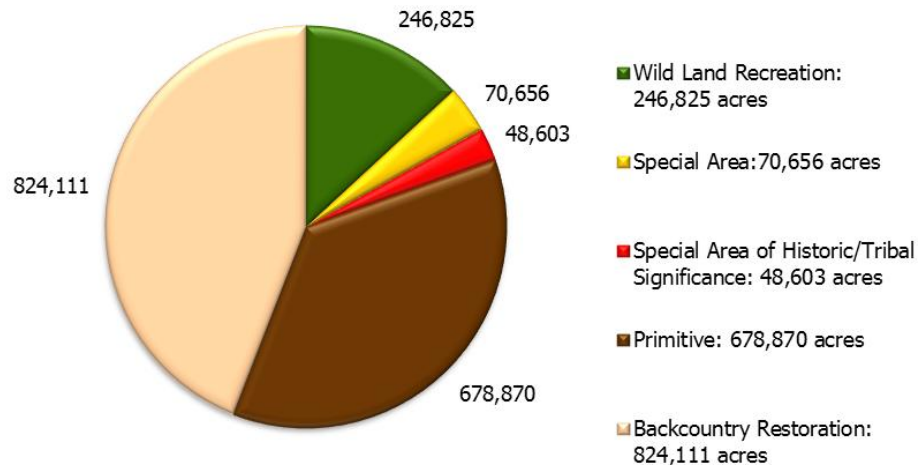


Nez Perce NF: IRR Theme Acres
Total IRR Acres: 520,313



Idaho Roadless Areas: NP-CLW NFs Overview

Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs: IRR Theme Acres
Total IRR Acres: 1,869,066



IRR: Mineral Resources

- **Surface resources are managed by the Forest Service on USFS lands**
- **Underground resources are managed by the Bureau of Land Management on USFS lands**
- **Nothing in the IRR conflicts with the 1872 Mining Law**

Two Varieties of Mineral Resources

- 1. Common**
- 2. Uncommon**



IRR: Mineral Resources

Common Variety

Saleable Minerals

- Sand, stone, gravel, pumice, etc.
- Could include paving and flag stone
- Usually deposits don't have discrete boundaries

Uncommon Variety

Locatable Minerals (both metallic and Non-metallic)

- Metallic: i.e. Gold, silver, lead, etc.
- Non-Metallic: i.e. Fluorite, fluor spar, asbestos, mica, etc.
- Could include some types of limestone or marble
 - These could also be **Salable minerals** in some cases
- Usually deposits have discrete boundaries (i.e. veins)
- Managed by BLM if underground resource

Some locatable minerals if located on acquired lands would be developed under a lease

Leasable Minerals Oil, gas, and coal

- NP-CLW has no oil, gas or coal
- NP-CLW may have Geo-thermal



Wild Land Recreation (1,479,700 acres in Idaho)

NP-CLW NFs: 246,825 acres

SAHT and Mineral Resources

- Mineral activities – surface use and occupancy – prohibited



Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance (SAHTS) (48,600 acres in Idaho) NP-CLW NFs: 48,600 acres

SAHT and Mineral Resources

- Two areas (both on NP-CLW NFs)
 - Pilot Knob
 - Nimiipuu and Lewis and Clark Trails
- Road construction/reconstruction – prohibited
- Timber cutting – permitted to a very limited degree
- Mineral activities – surface use and occupancy – prohibited



Primitive (1,722,700 acres in Idaho) NP-CLW NFs: 678,870 acres

SAHT and Mineral Resources

- Mineral activities – surface use and occupancy – prohibited





Backcountry/Restoration
(5,313,500 acres in Idaho)
NP-CLW NFs: 824,111 acres
SAHT and Mineral Resources

- Mineral leases – road construction/reconstruction prohibited
- Surface use and occupancy for mineral activities- permitted if allowed in the land management plan
- Common variety minerals – road construction/reconstruction only allowed if use of the materials is incidental to an authorized activity



Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission

- Established by executive order
- Ensure implementation of the Rule
- Maintain a broad collaborative approach for the conservation and management of Idaho's roadless areas
- An Advisory Commission to the Governor
- Key role is to review, develop common understanding, make recommendations to the Governor, and provide support for specific projects.
- A 15 member commission representing forest users, environmental, elected officials/tribal interests. Five members representing each interest.

Contacts and Information

- R1/R4 Forest Service liaison
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- Commission Chair
 - Jim Caswell 208-369-3970 jlcaswell@q.com
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- Websites
 - http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/em/nepa_web/idaho_roadless_rule.html

Questions?



www.roadless.fs.fed.us